Message Text

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E.O. 11652: GDS TAGS: MPOL, NATO

SUBJECT: NATO INITIATIVES: EWG MEETING 15 JULY

REF: STATE 162516 DTG 130124Z JUL 77

1. BY LETTER THIS MORNING WE HAVE PROVIDED TO ACTING EWG CHAIRMAN MUMFORD AND TO ALL EWG REPS THE TEXT OF THE US NON-PAPER AND THE THRUST OF PARA 3 (REFTEL) EXCLUDING THE FINAL SECTION PERTAINING TO EWG ISSUANCE OF ADDITIONAL GENERAL GUIDANCE TO ALL TASK FORCES. WE DISCUSSED THE IDEA OF ADDITIONAL GENERAL GUIDANCE WITH MUMFORD AT LENGTH. HE WAS OPPOSED TO SUCH A COURSE ON THE GROUNDS THAT:

(A) THE PURPOSE OF THE MEETING WAS TO GET APPROVED TORS, AND IF THE TORS WERE NOT RIGHT, THE SIMPLEST AND MOST DIRECT COURSE WOULD BE TO PUT THEM RIGHT.

(B) THERE WAS NO NEED FOR ANY GENERAL RESTATEMENT OF GUIDELINES; THE DECISION SHEET FROM THE JUNE 3 DPC (USNATO 5103, DTG 102025Z JUN 77) AND THE MODEL TOR CONFIDENTIAL

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(USNATO 6134, DTG 281016Z JUN 77) ARE SUFFICIENT.
(C) OPENING UP THE SUBJECT OF GENERAL GUIDELINES COULD RESULT IN LENGTHY DISCUSSION OF THE PHILOSOPHICAL UNDER-PINNINGS OF THE PROGRAM, A DEVELOPMENT HE WOULD CONSIDER UNDESIRABLE.

2. MUMFORD AGREED ENTIRELY WITH THE US VIEW ON RESOURCE

GUIDANCE, AND STRESSED THAT HIS DISAGREEMENT WITH THE IDEA OF EWG GENERAL GUIDANCE WAS ON TACTICS, NOT SUBSTANCE. WE TOLD MUMFORD WE WOULD REPORT HIS REACTION, BUT THAT THE US REP AT THE JULY 15 EWG MIGHT ELECT TO RAISE THE SUBJECT OF GENERAL GUIDANCE. WE HAVE ARRANGED FOR AMBASSADOR KOMER TO MEET WITH MUMFORD ON THURSDAY, SHORTLY AFTER THE AMBASSADOR'S ARRIVAL AT NATO HQS, TO CONCERT THINKING FOR FRIDAY'S EWG AND TO EXPLORE FURTHER THE IDEA OF A RESTATEMENT OF GENERAL GUIDANCE BY THE EWG.

3. IN VIEW OF MUMFORD'S INITIAL OPPOSITION AND HIS AGREEMENT TO DISCUSS DIRECTLY WITH AMBASSADOR KOMER THE IDEA OF EWG GENERAL GUIDANCE, WE HAVE NOT DISCUSSED THAT SUBJECT WITH NATIONAL DELEGATIONS.BENNETT

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